

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 178619 TOSEC 080125

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUDAPEST 2402 SENT ACTION SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 29 JUL
75

QUOTE

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 2402

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: HELSINKI SUMMIT: KISSINGER-PUJA MEETING

REF: STATE 176288 AND BUDAPEST 2394

1. DEPARTMENT'S INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING PUJA MEETING WITH
SECRETARY AT HELSINKI COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE TIMELY. EVEN
HUNGARIAN MAN IN STREET AWARE OF PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULED VISITS
TO WARSAW, BUCHAREST AND BELGRADE; AND MAGYAR OFFICIALDOM NOT
UNAWARE THAT NUMEROUS U.S. MILITARY AND CIVIL AIRCRAFT WILL
OVERFLY THEIR COUNTRY VERY SHORTLY EN ROUTE TO ROMANIA.

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2. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SECRETARY
SHOULD SERVE AS POULTICE FOR PUJA'S WOUNDED PRIDE
(BUDAPEST 1527 AND STATE 142528). IN THAT SAOE CONNECTION

WE HAVE VERY DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM RESPONDING O
PARA 3 STATE 142528 RE POSSIBILITY OF INVITING PUJA TO
WASHINGTON DURING UNGA SESSION. WE RECALL THAT PUJA WAS
CRUDE AND UNCIVIL IN HIS MAY 1974 MEETINGS IN BUDAPEST
WITH ITALIAN FONMIN MORO (BUDAPEST 1347, MAY 30, 1974);
HIS DECEMBER 1974 EXCHANGES WITH UK MINISTER OF STATE
HATTERSLEY ABOUT CSCE (BUDAPEST 3483, DECEMBER 19, 1974)
WERE LESS THAN CONSTRUCTIVE; HIS MAY 1975 TALKS WITH DANISH
FONMIN ANDERSEN (BUDAPEST 1268) WERE PATENT ATTEMPT TO BULLY
HIS VISITOR. ON OTHER HAND HUNGARIAN FONMIN'S JUNE 5-JUNE 6
VISIT TO PARIS, HIS FIRST TO THE FRENCH CAPITAL, WENT OFF
WITHOUT A HITCH; PUJA, ACCORDING FRENCH SOURCES HERE, IN HIS
MEETINGS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES AND GISCARD D'ESTAING CONDUCTED
SELF WITH SKILL, DIGNITY AND FINESSE THAT HE HAD ONLY RARELY
DISPLAYED BEFORE. ALTHOUGH WELL-BEHAVED IN HIS PERSONAL DEALINGS
WITH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER, PUJA FLAWED HIS JUNE 11-JUNE 12 BONN
VISIT BY FOOLISHLY RAISING THE REPARATIONS ISSUE (BUDAPEST 2117).
AT THIS VERY MOMENT WE ARE WAITING TO LEARN HOW THE TALKS ARE GOING
WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMEY CALLAGHAN WHO IS VISITING
BUDAPEST JULY 28-JULY 29.

3. SOME EXPERT PUJA-WATCHERS HERE ASSERT THAT THE FOREIGN
MINISTER PLAYS ROLE OF THE HEAVY ON HIS HOME TURF IN HIS
DEALINGS WITH FOREIGNERS SO THAT JANOS KADAR, PRESIDENT
LOSONCZI, ET ALL CAN APPEAR SWEET AND REASONABLE IN CONTRAST.
THAT THEORY WILL NOT STAND SCRUTINY: IN MEETINGS WITH
CODELS WILSON AND WHELAN (JANUARY 1975 AND APRIL 1975) PUJA
WAS REASONABLE, RESPECTFUL AND GENTLEMANLY. OTHERS CLAIM
THAT PUJA ILL AT EASE, STIFF, AND BRUSQUE WHEN WORKING THROUGH
AN INTERPRETER, AND IS INCLINED TO SPEECHIFY IN DOGMATIC
TERMS. THEREFORE, THEY ARGUE, IT IS BEST TO DEAL WITH
HIM IN GERMAN AS SAUVAGNARGUES DID SO SUCCESSFULLY. BUT
THAT THEORY WILL NOT STAND CLOSE INSPECTION EITHER FOR
IT FAILS TO EXPLAIN PUJA'S IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE WITH
CONGRESSMEN WILSON AND WHELAN IN BUDAPEST.

4. WE FOR OUR PART SUSPECT THAT PUJA, WHO LIKE MOST OF
HIS COUNTRYMEN CANNOT RECALL ANY SIGNAL HUNGARIAN MILITARY
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VICTORIES OR NATIONAL SUCCESSES IN RECENT CENTURIES, RESPECTS
POWER AND STYLE. IF REPEAT IF PUJA BEHAVES WELL IN HELSINKI,
WE RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY EXPRESS INTEREST IN LENGTHIER,
LESS HURRIED DISCUSSION OF MANY SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT NEED
RESOLUTION. SABSEQUENTLY, COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT OR ASSISTANT
SECRETARY HARTMAN COULD TELL DEPFONMIN NAGY THAT, DEPENDING
OF COURSE ON SECRETARY'S BUSY SCHEDULE, DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE
ABLE TO ARRANGE BRIEF 36 HOUR INFORMAL WORKING VISIT TO
WASHINGTON DURING UNGA.

5. WE ARE MORALLY CERTAIN THAT, AFTER RECENT WELL PUBLICIZED

VISITS TO PARIS AND BONN AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S
CURRENT STOPOVER HERE, PUJA LUSTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO
CONFER WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON AND THAT HE COVETS FOR
HIS MANTELPIECE A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF IN OVAL ROOM AT WHITE
HOUSE. WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW IS THE THINKING OF JANOS KADAR;
BUT PUJA'S BEHAVIOR DURING AND AFTER AUGUST 1 MEETING WITH
SECRETARY IN HELSINKI SHOULD PRIVIDE A FEW INDICATIONS.

6. IN SUM, IT IS OUR RECOMMENDATION THAT ONE TREAT PUJA
WITH BOTH COURTESY AND STYLE -- AND WITH THE SELF SAME FIRM-
NESS THAT ANOTHER GREAT POWER EMPLOYS TO HOLD THE HUNGARIANS
IN AWE. IF HE IS ALLOWED TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THIS
AMERICAN OVERTURE, THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUING NORMALIZATION
OF US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS ARE BRIGHT.
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S E C R E BUDAPEST

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